

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 with prejudice.

Please add new claims 15-28 as follows:

- 15. A process for producing a branched chain L-amino acid, comprising:
 - a) fermenting a bacterium in which the *brnE* gene or *brnF* gene is amplified;
 - b) allowing said L-amino acid to accumulate either in said bacterium or in the medium in which said bacterium is fermented; and
 - c) isolating said L-amino acid.
- 16. The process of claim 15, wherein said bacterium has been transformed with a vector for the expression of *brnE*, *brnF*, or both, wherein said vector comprises a promoter joined to a *brnE* or *brnF* coding sequence.
- 17. The process of claim 16, wherein said *brnE* or *brnF* coding sequence consists of nucleotides encoding a polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of either SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5.
- 18. The process of claim 16, wherein said *brnE* or *brnF* coding sequence consists essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:3; and SEQ ID NO:4.
- 19. The process of claim 18, wherein said *brnE* or *brnF* coding sequence consists of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; and SEQ ID NO:4.
- 20. The process of claim 16, wherein said *brnE* or *brnF* coding sequence consists of nucleotides encoding a polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence encoded by either nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6, or nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

21. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:6; nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6; and nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.
22. The process of claim 21, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:6; nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6; and nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.
23. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence comprises:
 - a) nucleotides encoding a first polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; and
 - b) nucleotides encoding a second distinct polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
24. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
25. The process of claim 24, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
26. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said bacterium is of the genus *Corynebacterium*.
27. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said bacterium overexpresses brnE, brnF, or both.
28. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said branched L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-leucine; L-isoleucine; and L-valine. --